

PUTTING GOD FIRST—Malachi 2

By Pastor Todd Tyson

(NLT, Malachi 2:1-2a) “Listen, you priests—this command is for you! Listen to me and make up your minds to honor my name,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies...

(Malachi 2b-3) “or I will bring a terrible curse against you. I will curse even the blessings you receive. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you have not taken my warning to heart. I will punish your descendants and splatter your faces with the manure from your festival sacrifices, and I will throw you on the manure pile.”

God will do whatever it takes to get your attention when you're disobedient.

(Malachi 2:5) “The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name.”

The Church should be a place where people can turn their lives around.

(Malachi 2:8) “But you priests have left God’s paths. Your instructions have caused many to stumble into sin. You have corrupted the covenant I made with the Levites,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

Leaders have a great responsibility to be faithful followers.

(Malachi 2:9-10) “So I have made you despised and humiliated in the eyes of all the people. For you have not obeyed me but have shown favoritism in the way you carry out my instructions.” Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?

God doesn't have favorites.

(Malachi 2:11) Judah has been unfaithful, and a detestable thing has been done in Israel and in Jerusalem. The men of Judah have defiled the Lord’s beloved sanctuary by marrying women who worship idols.

Covenants in conflict will wreck your life.

(Malachi 2:13-14) Here is another thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn’t accept them with pleasure. You cry out, “Why doesn’t the Lord accept my worship?” I’ll tell you why! Because the Lord witnessed the vows you and your wife made when you were young. But you have been unfaithful to her, though she remained your faithful partner, the wife of your marriage vows.

Unfaithfulness is a cancer that will affect every one of your relationships.

(Malachi 2:16) “For I hate divorce!” says the Lord, the God of Israel. “To divorce your wife is to overwhelm her with cruelty,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “So guard your heart; do not be unfaithful to your wife.”

Biblical truth should never lead us to tear someone down.

Unfaithfulness begins in the heart.

(Malachi 2:17) You have wearied the Lord with your words. “How have we wearied him?” you ask. You have wearied him by saying that all who do evil are good in the Lord’s sight, and he is pleased with them. You have wearied him by asking, “Where is the God of justice?”

[EDITORIAL NOTE: THIS SECTION IN GREY ONLY NEEDS TO BE ON THE SCREEN. IT DOESN’T NEED TO BE IN THE BULLETIN IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ROOM. THE GREY IS ONLY FOR THIS NOTE. THERE SHOULD NOT BE GREY IN THE SCREEN SHOT.]

The Cycle of Sin

We sin.

Then we excuse sin.

Next we celebrate sin.

Then we assume God has left us.

Are you closer to God now, or further away?